



# BREWSTER

## Barnstable County



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## NARRATIVE

### **Narrative**

Brewster is an historic sea captains' town located on the bay side of Cape Cod. Established in 1803, the town encompasses approximately twenty three square miles, including over 325 acres of beach and marshlands, with 24 ponds larger than 10 acres in size.

Brewster has taken action to protect the town's historic character by establishing sign codes and site plan review by-laws and is in the process of updating its comprehensive plan. In 1985, the town took steps to protect its open space and water quality by purchasing close to 700 acres of land. Currently, over one-third of Brewster's land has been retained for conservation, open space, recreation and watershed protection. Consequently, Brewster boasts award-winning drinking water and two nationally acclaimed 18-hole golf courses among other recreation sites. Nickerson State Park contains 400 acres of trails for biking and hiking, camping areas, and freshwater ponds for swimming, fishing and boating. Brewster has over 15 bed and breakfast inns and over 30 art galleries, craft shops and antique shops, most of which are along historic Route 6A, the old "King's Highway".

Brewster's current year-round population of about 8,400 grows to about 20,000 in the summer season as visitors come to sample the diversions of the town.

(Narrative supplied by community)



# GEOGRAPHY

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## Location

Southeastern Massachusetts, at the inside bend of the elbow of Cape Cod. Bordered by Cape Cod Bay on the north, Orleans on the east, Harwich on the south, and Dennis on the west. Brewster is 16 miles east of Hyannis; 83 miles southeast of Boston; 87 miles east of Providence, Rhode Island; and 264 miles from New York City.

**Total Area:** 25.48 sq. miles

**Land Area:** 23.01 sq. miles

**Population:** 8,440

**Density:** 367 per sq. mile

## Climate

(National Climatic Data Center)

(Chatham WSMO Station)

Normal temperature in January.....30.4°F

Normal temperature in July.....67.3°F

Normal annual precipitation.....45.1"

## U.S.G.S. Topographical Plates

Harwich, Orleans, Dennis, Chatham

## Regional Planning Agency

Cape Cod Commission

## Metropolitan Statistical Area

(1993 Definition)

Barnstable-Yarmouth



# GOVERNMENT

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## Municipal Offices

Main Number: (508) 896-3701

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

## Form of Government

Board of Selectmen  
Executive Secretary  
Open Town Meeting

## Year Incorporated

As a town: 1803

## Registered Voters (Secretary of State 1994)

	Number	%	
Total Registered	5,948		
Democrats	1,374	23.1	%
Republicans	1,414	23.8	%
Other parties	1	0.0	%
Unenrolled Voters	3,159	53.1	%

## Legislators

[Senators and Representatives by City and Town](#)



# DEMOGRAPHICS

**Table DP-1. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000**

Geographic Area: Brewster town, Barnstable County, Massachusetts

[For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see text]

Subject	Number	Percent	Subject	Number	Percent
Total population.....	10,094	100.0	<b>HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE</b>		
<b>SEX AND AGE</b>			Total population.....	10,094	100.0
Male.....	4,686	46.4	Hispanic or Latino (of any race).....	107	1.1
Female.....	5,409	53.6	Mexican.....	25	0.2
Under 5 years.....	353	3.5	Puerto Rican.....	37	0.4
5 to 9 years.....	600	5.9	Cuban.....	11	0.1
10 to 14 years.....	717	7.1	Other Hispanic or Latino.....	34	0.3
15 to 19 years.....	612	6.1	Not Hispanic or Latino.....	9,987	98.9
20 to 24 years.....	262	2.6	White alone.....	9,731	96.4
25 to 34 years.....	707	7.0	<b>RELATIONSHIP</b>		
35 to 44 years.....	1,467	14.5	Total population.....	10,094	100.0
45 to 54 years.....	1,715	17.0	In households.....	9,639	95.5
55 to 59 years.....	523	5.2	Householder.....	4,124	40.9
60 to 64 years.....	491	4.9	Spouse.....	2,389	23.7
65 to 74 years.....	1,260	12.5	Child.....	2,465	24.3
75 to 84 years.....	936	9.3	Own child under 18 years.....	1,929	19.1
85 years and over.....	451	4.5	Other relatives.....	252	2.5
Median age (years).....	46.9	(X)	Under 18 years.....	81	0.8
18 years and over.....	7,988	79.1	Nonrelatives.....	419	4.2
Male.....	3,603	35.7	Unmarried partner.....	208	2.1
Female.....	4,385	43.4	In group quarters.....	455	4.5
21 years and over.....	7,757	76.8	Institutionalized population.....	419	4.2
62 years and over.....	2,949	29.2	Noninstitutionalized population.....	36	0.4
65 years and over.....	2,647	26.2	<b>HOUSEHOLD BY TYPE</b>		
Male.....	1,126	11.2	Total households.....	4,124	100.0
Female.....	1,521	15.1	Family households (families).....	2,854	69.2
<b>RACE</b>			With own children under 18 years.....	1,061	25.7
One race.....	10,030	99.4	Married-couple family.....	2,389	57.9
White.....	9,815	97.2	With own children under 18 years.....	806	19.5
Black or African American.....	77	0.8	Female householder, no husband present.....	366	8.9
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	23	0.2	With own children under 18 years.....	212	5.1
Asian.....	77	0.8	Nonfamily households.....	1,270	30.8
Asian Indian.....	17	0.2	Householder living alone.....	1,023	24.8
Chinese.....	17	0.2	Householder 65 years and over.....	518	12.6
Filipino.....	14	0.1	Households with individuals under 18 years.....	1,121	27.2
Japanese.....	9	0.1	Households with individuals 65 years and over.....	1,575	38.2
Korean.....	6	0.1	Average household size.....	2.34	(X)
Vietnamese.....	10	0.1	Average family size.....	2.79	(X)
Other Asian <sup>1</sup> .....	4	-	<b>HOUSING OCCUPANCY</b>		
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	3	-	Total housing units.....	7,339	100.0
Native Hawaiian.....	-	-	Occupied housing units.....	4,124	56.2
Guamanian or Chamorro.....	3	-	Vacant housing units.....	3,215	43.8
Samoa.....	-	-	For seasonal, recreational, or		
Other Pacific Islander <sup>2</sup> .....	-	-	occasional use.....	2,960	40.3
Some other race.....	35	0.3	Homeowner vacancy rate (percent).....	1.5	(X)
Two or more races.....	64	0.6	Rental vacancy rate (percent).....	12.3	(X)
<i>Race alone or in combination with one</i>			<b>HOUSING TENURE</b>		
<i>or more other races:<sup>3</sup></i>			Occupied housing units.....	4,124	100.0
White.....	9,875	97.8	Owner-occupied housing units.....	3,480	84.4
Black or African American.....	89	0.9	Renter-occupied housing units.....	644	15.6
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	48	0.5	Average household size of owner-occupied units.....	2.37	(X)
Asian.....	91	0.9	Average household size of renter-occupied units.....	2.16	(X)
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	4	-			
Some other race.....	54	0.5			

- Represents zero or rounds to zero. (X) Not applicable.

<sup>1</sup> Other Asian alone, or two or more Asian categories.

<sup>2</sup> Other Pacific Islander alone, or two or more Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander categories.

<sup>3</sup> In combination with one or more of the other races listed. The six numbers may add to more than the total population and the six percentages may add to more than 100 percent because individuals may report more than one race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.



# HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

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**Home Sales** (Banker & Tradesman) -

[Town Stats - Free market Statistics](#)

**Subsidized Housing Units** (DHCD 1998)

[DHCD Subsidized Housing Inventory](#)

Subsidized Housing Units: The number of housing units which count toward the municipality's 10% goal for low- and moderate-income housing. It includes both subsidized affordable units and market rate units in certain eligible subsidized developments.

**Public Housing Units** (DHCD 1999)

Conventional State: 56

Conventional Federal: 0

**Rental Assistance**(DHCD 1999)

State (MRVP: 39

Federal (Section 8): 0



# TRANSPORTATION

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## TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS

Brewster is situated on Cape Cod, a 65-mile long sandy peninsula comprising Barnstable County. The Cape has excellent highway, rail, bus and air connections to other parts of New England. Air, bus, and passenger rail service expand during the summer months to accommodate the large numbers of tourists.

### Major Highways

The principal road is the Mid-Cape Highway, U.S. Route 6. Other important highways include State Routes 6A, 124, and 137.

### Rail

There is no freight rail service, but the network of intermodal facilities serving eastern Massachusetts and Rhode Island is easily accessible.

### Bus

Brewster is a member of the Cape Cod Regional Transit Authority (CCRTA), which operates a b-bus demand response service.

### Other

The Chatham Municipal Airport, a General Aviation (GA) facility located in neighboring Chatham, has a 3,001' long asphalt runway. Instrument approaches available: Non-precision. Scheduled airline flights are available at the Hyannis Municipal Airport in the nearby town of Barnstable.



# CULTURE AND RECREATION

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## LIBRARIES

[Board of Library Commissioners On-line Library Catalog](#)

## MUSEUMS

(American Association of Museums)

Cape Cod Museum of Natural History

Route 6A

(508) 896-3867

New England Fire and History Museum

1439 Main Street, Route 6A

(508) 896-5711

## RECREATION

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

**Recreational Facilities** (Recreational sites and activities)

[Department of Environmental Management Recreation Section](#)



# MISCELLANEOUS

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## HEALTH FACILITIES

(Dept. of Public Health 1992)

### Hospitals

None

### Long Term Care

Brewster Manor Nursing + Retirement Home

### Hospices

None

### Rest Homes

None

### UTILITIES

[Telephone Numbers for Public Utilities](#)

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# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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The Department of Housing and Community Development would like to thank the many government agencies noted as having provided information for the community profiles. In addition to these agencies, the Regional Transit Authorities assisted with the transportation component of the profiles. We gratefully acknowledge the assistance of many city and town officials, which enabled us to include information obtainable only at the local level. DHCD would also like to thank the following individuals for providing special help: Leslie A. Kirwan, Deputy Commissioner, Division of Local Services, Department of Revenue; Richard Shibley, Deputy Secretary of State; Bob Beattie of the Department of Public Health; Charles W. Clifford from the Martha's Vineyard Commission; Dennis Coffey of the Executive Office of Transportation and Construction; Donna Fletcher and Christian Jacqz of the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs; James Griffin from the MBTA; Karen Loh from Banker & Tradesman; Todd Maio from the Department of Welfare; Geoffrey Morton from the Election Division of the Secretary of State's Office; Stephen R. Muench of the Massachusetts Aeronautics Commission; Rol Murrow of the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association; Mary Ann Neary and Emmanuelle Fletcher, reference librarians at the State House Library; Jeff Nellhaus from the Department of Education; and George Sanborn, reference librarian at the State Transportation Library.

NOTE: The COMMUNITY PROFILE draws information from a diversity of sources. The main source of information is listed under each section. In some instances comments submitted by the municipality were incorporated to correct and/or enhance the information obtained from the main source. However, no changes were made to those data bases which must be consistent throughout the state. DHCD has made efforts to ensure the accuracy of all data in the COMMUNITY PROFILES, but cannot take responsibility for any consequences arising from the use of the information contained in this document.